DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 419 705 SE 061 437

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TITLE	Exploring Energy with TOYS. Complete Lessons for Grades 4-8.
SPONS AGENCY	National Science Foundation, Arlington, VA.
ISBN	ISBN-0-07-064747-X
PUB DATE	1998-00-00
NOTE	269p.; For other books in the "Teaching Science with TOYS series, see SE 061 435-438.
CONTRACT	TPE-9055448
AVAILABLE FROM	McGraw-Hill, Inc., P.O. Box 545, Blacklick, OH 43004-0545 ($19.95).
PUB TYPE	Books (010) -- Guides - Classroom - Teacher (052)
EDRS PRICE	Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	Energy Education; Hands on Science; *Instructional Materials; Intermediate Grades; Junior High Schools; *Kinetics; Learning Modules; Mechanics (Physics); Middle Schools; Problem Solving; Science Activities; Science Education; *Scientific Concepts; Teaching Guides; *Toys
IDENTIFIERS	National Science Education Standards; National Science Foundation

ABSTRACT

The project Teaching Science with TOYS promotes toys as an ideal mechanism for science instruction, because they are an everyday part of the students' world and carry a user-friendly message. TOYS Teacher Resource Modules are collections of "TOYS" activities grouped around a topic or theme with supporting science content and pedagogical materials. This module focuses on energy and is comprised of a collection of 21 energy-related activities designed for use at the intermediate and middle school level but can be modified for use with older students. Students learn about such concepts as kinetic energy and potential energy by examining the inside of "Push-n-Go" toys, determine how a commercial roll-back works, make a soda can into various energy toys, and explore gravitational potential energy with "loop-the-loop" tracks. All activities include variations and extensions as well as suggestions for cross-curricular integration. This module is organized into three main sections: (1) "Pedagogical Strategies"; (2) "Content Review"; and (3) "Module Activities." An appendix contains a matrix showing how the activities relate to the National Science Education Standards. (PVD)

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